United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1517
9 November 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General, in Washington, tells National Defense University seminar that ethnic conflict poses equal threat to world security as cold war; meets with United States Secretary of State and Congressional leaders.

- Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, heading mission to El Salvador, says there have been some alarming developments in country recently, despite progress in implementing Peace Accords.

- UNHCR says efforts on behalf of refugees must be targeted both at providing asylum and protection, and at safeguarding human rights so people need not seek protection outside their own countries.

- Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali appoints Maxime Zollner, UNHCR West African Representative, as Special Representative for Burundi.

- Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says United Nations should play significant role in support of reconstruction of Lebanon.

- Meeting to be convened in Geneva to discuss measures to ensure safety of humanitarian workers and personnel serving with UNPROFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bosnian leaders pledge support for efforts to improve security of convoys.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali last night warned that ethnic conflict posed as great a threat to world security as had the cold war. Opening a seminar on ethnic conflict at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., he stressed that no country could afford to ignore ethnic conflict. "Borders and oceans can no longer insulate people at home from the consequences of such violence abroad. 'Boat people' may become tomorrow a global problem," he said.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The United Nations was the creation and instrument of its Member States, and if world leaders did not concern themselves with failed States, the entire fabric of international society could be weakened, he continued. Meeting the new challenge of ethnic conflict required the Organization, in its military role, to use a full range of techniques, including peace-keeping, preventive deployment and the use of observers.

This morning, the Secretary-General met with members of the House of Representatives from the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Armed Services, Appropriations and Intelligence. Among the issues discussed were the upcoming United States withdrawal from Somalia, the level of the country's assessed contributions for peace-keeping, management reform at the United Nations and Haiti. Meeting with the leadership of the House Appropriations Committee, the Secretary-General expressed the view that there should be wider and more balanced support among Member States for peace-keeping operations. He later met with Senate leaders.

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and discussed Haiti, Somalia, the former Yugoslavia and other matters. He was accompanied by Melissa Wells, Under-Secretary-General for Administration and Management, and Alvaro de Soto, his Senior Political Advisor.

* * *

Much has been achieved in implementing the Peace Accords in El Salvador, but there have been some alarming developments recently, Marrack Goulding, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, told the press yesterday on his arrival in San Salvador. He is heading a four-person mission sent to the country by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and the Security Council in the wake of a series of murders of political leaders.

Mr. Goulding said that the mission would work with the Chief of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), Augusto Ramirez-Ocampo, the President of El Salvador and the leadership of the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN), on measures to ensure that the Peace Accords were implemented fully and peacefully, and in a time frame as close as possible to the one which was originally accepted.

* * *

Sadako Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), briefing correspondents today on a report on the State of the World's Refugees, stressed the dual challenge of protecting those fleeing persecution and violence through the granting of asylum, and of insisting that States respect and safeguard fundamental human rights, so that people did not need to seek protection elsewhere.

Mrs. Ogata said that while donations for refugees last year totalled $1.1 billion, only $800 million had been received so far this year, against a budget of $1.2 billion. While she rejected the term "donor fatigue", she

(more)

foresaw a continuing drop in donations, given that all donor countries were in recession. Unfortunately, there was unlikely to be any lessening in the need for refugee assistance next year. She said she would like to see UNHCR be more involved in the pursuit of political solutions and with development efforts, to prevent the factors that gave rise to refugee crises.

With regard to sanctions, which could give rise to economic distress and population movements, Mrs. Ogata called for greater examination of ways to direct their impact to the right target so as not to punish those who did not deserve to be punished and who were generally the most vulnerable.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Maxime L. Zollner, West African Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), as his Special Representative for Burundi, with immediate effect. In a letter to the Security Council dated 8 November, he said the Special Representative would follow developments in the country, and continue consultations and coordination with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on ways to facilitate the restoration of constitutional rule there following last month's military coup.

* * *

A spokesman for Thorvald Stoltenberg, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, announced today that a meeting is to be convened in Geneva to discuss measures to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian workers and personnel serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The announcement followed a meeting today between Mr. Stoltenberg and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban to review the situation regarding humanitarian convoys in Central Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Mr. Stoltenberg, at the request of the Secretary-General, suspended all convoys in the region following the attack on 25 October in which a United Nations driver was killed and a number of other workers were injured. According to the Board of Inquiry established by UNPROFOR, the driver's death was probably a homicide, with the shot having come from an area controlled by the Bosnian Government. Mr. Stoltenberg stressed that the relevant authorities should ensure that the person or persons responsible were arrested and brought to justice. According to a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Silajdzic and Mr. Boban had expressed deep regret over the driver's death, and had pledged their support for efforts to coordinate with UNPROFOR to improve the security of the convoys.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1518
10 November 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in two Presidential statements last night, demands immediate release of two hostages taken by Bosnian Serb forces on Monday while under UNPROFOR protection, and demands that all parties refrain from any action threatening safety and well-being of civilians in Central Bosnia.

+ Secretary-General, in address to African-American Institute, expresses great concern about marginalization of Africa; despite progress, outlook for Somalia is uncertain because political will of Somalis and of international community is unclear.

+ United Nations launches Inter-Agency Humanitarian Appeal for Afghanistan in Islamabad, Geneva and New York; seeks $60 million for programmes and projects until March 1994.

+ Special Commission says Iraq has yet to meet conditions for initiation in full of plan for monitoring and verification of weapons facilities; however, sees signs that country might be willing to formally acknowledge obligations imposed by Security Council.

* * *

The Security Council last night demanded that the two hostages taken by Bosnian Serb forces on Monday be released immediately. The two escorts were accompanying a peace mission to the city of Vares headed by Monsignor Vinko Puljic, the Archbishop of Sarajevo, and under the protection of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). In a statement made by its President, José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Council condemned the "outrageous act" as a "flagrant challenge to the authority and inviolability of UNPROFOR". It reminded the perpetrators that they were obligated to ensure the safety of the hostages and would be held personally accountable for their actions.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to investigate the incident thoroughly and to report to it without delay. It also urged all parties to refrain from any action which might exacerbate the situation.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

In another Presidential statement made last night, the Council demanded that all concerned parties refrain from taking any action that would threaten the safety and well-being of the civilian population in Central Bosnia. Expressing concern at the deterioration of the situation in the region and the overall humanitarian situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Council reiterated its demand for a guarantee of unimpeded access for humanitarian assistance. It also called on all parties to assist the competent United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations in providing relief to the affected civilian population in those countries.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said last night that the marginalization of Africa was of the utmost concern to him. Addressing the African-American Institute in New York, which awarded him the Arthur A. Houghton Jr. Star Crystal Award for Excellence, he said that if the continent did not show a clear determination to solve its problems, the international community would sharply reduce its support. Many problems could be solved through bilateral action, or by those directly affected, but problems which could not be solved in that way, and which threatened fundamental international principles or interests, should be dealt with multilaterally -- by the United Nations.

In Somalia, international action had been the only way to prevent hundreds of thousands of deaths and to save the State, the Secretary-General said. The United Nations was now implementing a $166 million Programme for the Relief and Rehabilitation of Somalia and peace and reconstruction were genuinely taking place beyond the spotlight now focused on south Mogadishu. However, despite tremendous progress, the outlook was very uncertain because it was not clear that Somalis had the political will to seize the opportunity before them, or that the international community had the political will to persevere there.

Economically, there was donor fatigue and a declining enthusiasm for assisting Africa, while politically, there was a growing reluctance to sustain recent peace-keeping commitments, the Secretary-General said. The achievements of the international operation in Somalia had come at a very high price in human terms and in financial terms -- hundreds of Somalis and 95 United Nations personnel had been killed and more than $2 billion had already been spent on the country. The international effort in Somalia demonstrated that peace could not be imposed from outside, and could not be achieved without sufficient political will, he concluded.

* * *

A United Nations Consolidated Inter-Agency Appeal for Humanitarian Assistance for Afghanistan was launched today in Islamabad, Geneva and New York. The Appeal calls for $59.8 million to cover life-sustaining humanitarian programmes and emergency rehabilitation projects until March 1994.

(more)

Two million refugees have returned to Afghanstan since April, and they and others displaced by the continuing fighting in parts of the country will have to rely on international support for survival. The previous appeal for the country, which covered humanitarian programmes for the first nine months of this year, raised $47 million.

* * *

The Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq has said that while the country has been moving recently "in a positive direction", it has yet to meet the conditions for initiation in full of the Commission's plan for ongoing monitoring and verification of its weapons-related facilities. However, the Commission noted, there were signs that Iraq might be willing to formally acknowledge its obligations under Security Council resolution 715 (1991), which approved the implementation of the plan submitted by the Secretary-General. Those observations were contained in a report by the Commission, which the Secretary-General transmitted to the Council in a note dated 5 November.

The Commission said Iraq's the failure to acknowledge resolution 715 (1991) had prevented monitoring and verification of dual-capability facilities in the country and imports into it. Thus, the Commission could not ensure that Iraq did not reactivate its proscribed weapons programmes. Iraq's acknowledgement of its responsibilities was an important prerequisite for any favourable assessment of its fulfilment of the obligations imposed by resolution 687 (1991), which established the cease-fire after the Gulf War, and other relevant resolutions. It would also be a significant step towards the goal of creating a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, the Commission stressed.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1519
11 November 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, by 11 votes in favour and 4 abstentions, requires States to freeze Libyan assets as of 12:01 a.m. on 1 December unless Libya complies with obligations regarding Pan Am 103 and UTA 772 bombings; exempts funds from oil sales paid into special accounts; prohibits supply of oil-related equipment to Libya.

+ Security Council and General Assembly, meeting concurrently yesterday, elect Géza Herczegh of Hungary, Shigeru Oda of Japan, Carl-August Fleischhauer of Germany, Jiuyong Shi of China and Abdul Koroma of Sierra Leone to International Court of Justice.

+ UNHCR receives pledges worth $156 million for 1994 at meeting of Ad Hoc Committee for Voluntary Contributions.

+ Guatemalan Government and URNG ask Secretary-General to arrange meeting between them to set terms for continuing peace talks suspended in May.

+ Executive Director of UNICEF condemns attack on Tuesday on classroom in Sarajevo in which three children and a teacher were killed and 20 others were seriously injured.

* * *

The Security Council today decided that all States in which there are funds or other financial resources owned or controlled by the Libyan Government or any Libyan undertaking should freeze them as of 12:01 a.m. on 1 December, unless Libya ensured the appearance of those charged with the bombing of Pan Am 103 for trial before a United Kingdom or United States court and satisfied French judicial authorities with respect to the bombing of UTA 772. The Council also reiterated its demand that Libya comply without delay with resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992). It took that action, acting under Chapter VII of the Charter, by adopting resolution 883 (1993) by 11 votes in favour to none against, with four abstentions (China, Djibouti, Morocco and Pakistan).

(more)

For information media—not an official record

According to the resolution, the new measures would not apply to funds or other financial resources derived from the sale or supply of any petroleum or petroleum products, including natural gas and natural gas products, or other agricultural products or commodities originating in Libya and exported from there after 1 December, provided that any such funds were paid into separate bank accounts exclusively for those funds.

In addition, the Council said that States should prohibit the provision to Libya of medium- or large-capacity oil and gas pumps; certain equipment for use in crude oil export terminals and refineries; and spare parts for those items, along with equpiment and licences for their manufacture or maintenance. The Council also required all States to: immediately close all Libyan Arab Airlines offices within their territories and prohibit commercial transactions with that airline; prohibit the making available of aircraft and aircraft components for operation in Libya; and prohibit the supply of materials and services for Libyan civilian or military airfields, except for emergency equipment and equipment related to civilian air traffic control.

The Council said it would be ready to review those measures and the measures set out in resolution 748 (1992) with a view to suspending them if the Secretary-General reported that Libya had complied with its obligations with respect to the bombings of Pan Am 103 and UTA 772, and with a view to lifting them completely when Libya fully complied with resolutions 731 (1992) and 748 (1992).

* * *

The Security Council and General Assembly, meeting concurrently, yesterday elected Géza Herczegh of Hungary, Shigeru Oda of Japan, Carl-August Fleischhauer of Germany, Jiuyong Shi of China and Abdul Koroma of Sierra Leone to fill five vacancies on the International Court of Justice beginning on 6 February 1994.

Candidates required an absolute majority of eight votes in the Council and 94 in the Assembly for election to the 15-member Court. Mr. Koroma was the last candidate to be elected. The Council had given a majority to José Luis Jesus of Cape Verde in its second meeting of the day, but voted for Mr. Koroma in a third meeting after the withdrawal of Mr. Jesus as a candidate.

* * *

Pledges totalling the equivalent of $156 million were announced yesterday for the 1994 programmes of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) at a meeting of the General Assembly's Ad Hoc Committee for the Announcement of Voluntary Contributions to the UNHCR. Such contributions, from Governments and private sources, are UNHCR's only means of funding its programmes of protection and assistance.

Speaking at the close of the meeting, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata said that this year's pledges exceeded the amount pledged last year and that the strong support shown was a source of great encouragement. Earlier, she had

told participants that UNHCR's budget had almost tripled over the past three years and that the number of staff had almost doubled. In a world still groping for a new order, she said, humanitarian action was sometimes the only response.

General Assembly President Samuel Insanally (Guyana) told the meeting that contributions to UNHCR would have a direct impact on more than 19 million refugees who needed protection and assistance. The past 12 months had seen a number of positive developments, particularly voluntary repatriations to Afghanistan, Cambodia and Mozambique. But the overwhelming trend remained one of flight caused by nationalistic, ethnic or communal tensions which, more than ever, impelled refugee movements around the world, he said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has been asked by the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) to arrange a preliminary meeting between them, according to a United Nations spokesman. The purpose would be to establish terms for the continuation of peace talks which were suspended last May.

The spokesman said the Secretary-General was consulting with the parties on modalities for the preliminary meeting, within the framework of his mandate of good offices, and without prejudging the future format of the negotiations and the possible role of the United Nations in them. It was envisaged that the meeting would be convened in the coming weeks.

* * *

The Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), James P. Grant, has condemned the attack on Tuesday on a classroom in Sarajevo in which at least three children and their teacher were killed and 20 others were seriously injured. "We understand that no place is safe in Sarajevo," he said. "However, after 20 months of war, school offers the only refuge from the conflict, the only semblance of normalcy." Now going to school was risky.

UNICEF's child psychologist in Sarajevo has begun organizing psychological support services for the surviving children. Since the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina began, UNICEF has trained teachers and psychosocial counsellors in an effort to keep schools open, and has provided $650,000 worth of school materials for a total of some 35,000 children.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1520
12 November 1993

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

+ Security Council condems violations of cease-fire in Nagorny Karabakh and demands end to hostilities and withdrawal of occupying forces from Zangelan district and Goradiz; calls on Armenian Government to use its influence so that Armenians in region comply with relevant resolutions.

+ Friends of Secretary-General on Haiti -- Canada, France, United States and Venezuela -- reaffirm commitment to Governors Island Agreement and to restoration of democracy in country; 13 United Nations agency staff to return there this weekend to support humanitarian relief work.

+ Department of Humanitarian Affairs allocates $5 million from Central Emergency Revolving Fund to UNHCR to aid refugees from Burundi coup.

+ Secretary-General appoints Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh, former Foreign Minister of Cameroon, as his Special Representative for Rwanda.

+ Special Representative Ajello says Italy will keep its troops in ONUMOZ until April 1994; foresees extension of Italian support in Mozambique until October 1994 if election timetable is adhered to.

+ WHO warns that number of people with diabetes is rising rapidly and could exceed 100 million by 2000; says World Diabetes Day, to be held on Sunday, is intended to increase awareness among Governments and general public.

* * *

The Security Council today condemned the recent violations of the cease-fire in Nagorny Karabakh, which had resulted in a resumption of hostilities, particularly the occupation of the Zangelan district and the city of Goradiz, attacks on civilians and bombardments of the territory of the Azerbaijani Republic. In unanimously adopting resolution 884 (1993), the Council called on the Armenian Government to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of Nagorny Karabakh with relevant resolutions and

(more)

For information media--not an official record

to ensure that the forces involved were not provided with the means to extend their military campaign further.

The Council demanded from the parties concerned an immediate end to hostilities and hostile acts, the unilateral withdrawal of occupying forces from Zangelan and Goradiz, and the withdrawal of occupying forces from other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan in accordance with the "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)" as amended by the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk Group meeting in Vienna from 2 to 8 November.

The Council urged the parties concerned to resume the cease-fire established as a result of direct contacts undertaken with the assistance of the Russian Government in support of the Minsk Group, and to continue to seek a negotiated settlement within the context of the Minsk process and the "Adjusted timetable" as amended in Vienna. It also again urged all States in the region to refrain from any hostile acts, interference or intervention which would lead to the widening of the conflict and undermine peace and security in the region.

The resolution asked the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to the affected civilian population and to assist refugees to return home in security and dignity.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told correspondents at Headquarters last night that the success of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) depended on three elements: the success of national reconciliation, finances, and the willingness of Member States to contribute additional troops or continue their present participation in the Operation.

The Secretary-General said that in his report to the Security Council, which is due by 18 November, he would be outlining the different available options. He pointed out that French and Belgian troops would leave UNOSOM II at the end of December and that the Americans would leave at the end of March. "We have to prepare ourselves a new strategy - to obtain additional troops, or to find a new approach at least on a military basis for the problem", he said. The problem was, he did not know whether the effort to promote political reconciliation among the different Somali parties would be successful before the end of the year, or before the end of March. There was doubt too about what the Organization's financial situation would be and whether it could sustain the expense of the troops in Somalia.

He stressed, however, the ongoing effort to promote political reconciliation, and noted the importance of the humanitarian conference on Somalia that would open in Addis Ababa on 29 November. He expressed the hope that the conference would provide an opportunity for further discussions "behind the scenes" with the different factions.

* * *

(more)

The Permanent Representatives to the United Nations of Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela -- the Friends of the Secretary-General on Haiti -- today reaffirmed their commitment to full implementation of the Governors Island Agreement and to the restoration of democracy and respect for human rights in Haiti. In a letter to the Secretary-General, they underlined their full support for the democratically-elected President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and for Prime Minister Robert Malval and his Government.

The letter expressed deep concern at the plight of the Haitian people, which was a direct result of the refusal by the military authorities to fulfill their public commitments. Only a return by the authorities to the Governors Island process would alleviate the situation. The letter also stressed the need for humanitarian measures to alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable people in Haiti and called on States to do all they could to provide humanitarian assistance there.

The four Representatives also emphasized their unqualified support for Dante Caputo, Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) for Haiti, for his efforts to ensure implementation of the Governors Island Agreement and reiterated their commitment to measures adopted by the Security Council to address the crisis.

Mr. Caputo today briefed the Council on the situation in Haiti, and recalled the appeal for the humanitarian plan of action issued jointly by the United Nations and the OAS in March. He said that 13 staff members from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would return from Santo Domingo to Haiti this weekend to help the United Nations team already there to deliver humanitarian assistance.

* * *

In response to an urgent request for funds to provide relief assistance to almost 700,000 refugees who have fled Burundi since a military coup last month, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) has allocated $5 million from its Central Emergency Revolving Fund to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

On 2 November, UNHCR asked the international community for $17 million to assist refugees from Burundi who had fled to Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. In requesting funds from the DHA, UNHCR indicated that it had already drawn to the limit on its own emergency funds. It will use the emergency allocation from the Revolving Fund to procure emergency relief items while wating for contributions from donors.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Jacques-Roger Booh-Booh of Cameroon as his Special Representative for Rwanda, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Booh-Booh will assume his duties this week.

(more)

Mr. Booh-Booh served in the Government of Cameroon as Minister for External Relations from 1998 to 1992. He was elected Vice-President of the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 1991 and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Disarmament in Central Africa.

* * *

The Government of Italy has assured the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Mozambique, Aldo Ajello, that Italian troops will remain with the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) until April 1994, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Security Council last week renewed ONUMOZ's mandate for six months, subject to the proviso that it would review its status within 90 days.

Mr. Ajello had said that it would be "easy to convince the Italian Government to continue their support" for ONUMOZ until elections were held in Mozambique in October 1994 if the election timetable were adhered to, the spokesman noted. He added that Italy would be withdrawing three helicopters from the country, but that would not prevent ONUMOZ from carrying out its functions.

* * *

The number of people with diabetes is increasing rapidly and could exceed 100 million worldwide by the end of the century, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today. That figure compares with an estimated 60 million three years ago.

Dr. Hilary King, the WHO medical officer responsible for diabetes, said: "There is no doubt that this disease is now a global health problem, with populations of developing countries, minority groups and disadvantaged communities facing the greatest risk." The rapid rise in the frequency of the disease in those groups seemed to be closely associated with lifestyle changes that accompanied industrialization, urbanization and socio-economic changes in the developing world, she noted.

In an effort to increase awareness of diabetes among Governments and the general public, WHO is co-sponsoring World Diabetes Day on Sunday, 14 November, together with the International Diabetes Federation.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1521
15 November 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ International Tribunal on war crimes committed in former Yugoslavia to hold opening session in the Hague, Netherlands, on Wednesday; judges to elect President and adopt Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

+ One UNOSOM II civilian staff member killed, two wounded, in ambush in Mogadishu on Saturday.

+ WHO report says tens of millions of people have died worldwide because of neglect of tuberculosis; warns that disease could become untreatable if dismissed as low priority for action.

* * *

The International Tribunal set up to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia will hold its opening session in the Hague, Netherlands, on Wednesday. The Tribunal, which was established by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, will have the power to prosecute persons alleged to have committed or ordered the commission of grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, violations of the laws or customs of war, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide.

The opening session will be attended by Prosecutor-designate Ramon Escovar-Salom and the Tribunal's eleven judges, and by Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs Carl-August Fleischhauer, who will read a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General. The judges will take an oath of office and will proceed to elect a President of the Tribunal and to draft and adopt Rules of Procedure and Evidence.

* * *

A civilian staff member of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was killed and two others were wounded on Saturday when their vehicle was ambushed by four gunmen while travelling to UNOSOM II Headquarters in Mogadishu. Kai Lincoln, a United States national, died as a result of serious wounds in the chest and abdomen, while Shirley Brownell, a Liberian

(more)

For information media--not an official record

national, and Lars Anderson, a Norwegian, were reported to be in stable condition after the incident.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Somalia, Jonathan Howe, later expressed condolences to Mr. Lincoln's family and to the people of the United States. The incident was being investigated and every effort would be made to apprehend those responsible, according to a UNOSOM II press release.

* * *

The World Health Organization (WHO) today said that decades of neglect had lead to the deaths of tens of millions of people from tuberculosis, and warned that the disease could become untreatable if it continued to be dismissed as a low priority for action. In a report issued today, WHO recommended that aid agencies spend more than $100 million on treatment programmes for tuberculosis in every region of the world. The report drew particular attention to the tuberculosis epidemic in the United States and other industrialized countries.

Arata Kochi, Manager of WHO's Tuberculosis Programme, said the resurgence of the disease in recent years had resulted from the neglect of health care programmes, the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) -- which destroys the cells that keep tuberculosis bacteria dormant -- and fast and accessible travel between countries and continents. He warned that it would become impossible to control the disease in industrialized nations unless it was tackled in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1522
16 November 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns Haitian military for failing to comply with Governors Island Agreement; says it is determined to enforce sanctions against Haiti and to consider stronger measures to bring about compliance with Agreement.

+ UNTAC military contingents complete withdrawal from Cambodia on schedule; military police, mine clearance and medical units to remain in country for limited period.

+ Special Representative Stoltenberg discusses United Nations operations in former Yugoslavia with Secretary-General and senior officials at Headquarters; UNHCR to discuss provision of humanitarian aid with three Bosnian parties in Geneva on Thursday.

+ United States proposes to Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) that office of Inspector General should be established to examine United Nations programmes and finances.

+ WFP launches major regional emergency relief operation for more than 800,000 Burundese refugees displaced by ethnic fighting following recent military coup in Burundi.

+ United Nations University to host two-day Japan/ASEAN Forum on "Technology Transfer and Development" beginning tomorrow in Tokyo.

* * *

The Security Council last night condemned the military authorities in Haiti for failing to comply with the Governors Island Agreement, particularly those provisions calling for the establishment of a new police force, the departure of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. In a statement read out by its President, José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Council said the Agreement was the only valid framework for resolving the Haitian crisis, which continued to threaten peace and security in the region.

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The Council encouraged the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS), to work for an early return of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH). It asked him to continue planning for additional measures, including the deployment, as conditions permitted, of an appropriate United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH). Stating that it was prepared to consider extra mechanisms to help verify compliance with its decisions, the Council reaffirmed its determination to ensure full enforcement of current sanctions against Haiti and welcomed measures taken by States to that effect. It also reaffirmed its determination to consider strengthening measures regarding Haiti if the military continued to obstruct compliance with the Governors Island Agreement.

The Council expressed concern for the plight of the Haitian people, for which the military authorities were responsible. It said it was determined to alleviate the situation of the most vulnerable groups and called on Member States to intensify their humanitarian assistance to the people of Haiti. the Council commended the efforts of Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the OAS, and reaffirmed support for the democratically elected President and the legitimate Government of Robert Malval. It held the military authorities responsible for the security of government members and United Nations and OAS personnel in Haiti.

* * *

Military contingents of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) yesterday completed their withdrawal from the country on schedule, leaving behind 71 military police, 15 mine clearance personnel and eight military medical personnel, according to a United Nations spokesman. At its peak, UNTAC's military presence had reached 16,000 troops.

Earlier this month, the Security Council, in resolution 879 (1993), extended the deployment of the military police and medical personnel until 31 December in order to ensure the safety of UNTAC personnel and equipment being withdrawn from Cambodia amid deteriorating security conditions. The Council also extended the deployment of the mine clearance unit until 30 November, noting the need for continuity in the work of the Cambodia Mine Action Centre (CMAC).

Meanwhile, the military liaison team established by resolution 879 (1993) became operational yesterday. The team, consisting of 20 military officers and 15 support staff, will report to the Secretary-General on matters affecting security in Cambodia, liaise with the Government, and assist it in dealing with residual military matters relating to the Paris Agreements.

* * *

Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg was in New York today for discussions with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and senior United Nations officials on operations in the former Yugoslavia, according to a

(more)

United Nations spokesman. Among the topics to be discussed was that of securing access into central Bosnia and Herzegovina for humanitarian convoys, which remained suspended.

Meanwhile, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata has invited the three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina to a meeting in Geneva on Thursday to discuss the provision of humanitarian aid over the winter. Each of the parties has accepted the invitation, and it will be the first time since 20 September that they have met together. The human situation has been deteriorating throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, and UNHCR warehouses there are now either empty or almost empty, the spokesman said.

* * *

The United States today proposed to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) that a high-level office of Inspector General should be established to examine United Nations programmes and finances. The Inspector General should examine and report on all regular budget, peace-keeping and extrabudgetary programmes, the Committee heard, as it continued discussing the administrative and financial functioning of the Organization. The authority of the office should eventually extend to include all agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

The United States representative said her Government recognized that its failure to pay its assessed contributions had been damaging to the Organization. She said that the Clinton Administration was committed to paying up its current assessments and arrears, but cautioned that continuing increases in assessed contributions and support for voluntary programmes could not be taken for granted. The United States expected to pay more than $1 billion in regular budget and peace-keeping assessments by the end of the year.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) today announced the launch of a major regional emergency relief operation for more than 800,000 refugees and internally displaced people who have sought to escape the violent ethnic conflict that erupted after the recent military coup in Burundi. There has been widespread fighting between members of the minority Tutsi and majority Hutu tribes, particularly in rural areas.

About 659,000 people so far have fled from Burundi to Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire, and a further 150,000 are displaced within the country. That amounts to almost 15 per cent of the population, the majority being of Hutu origin. About 80 per cent of them are women, children or old people.

According to WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini, the most urgent need is for cash, to fund local or regional purchases of cereals and pulses.

(more)

The total cost of the entire regional emergency operation is estimated at $14 million, and she stressed that the urgency and scope of the crisis required immediate response from the international donor community.

* * *

The United Nations University (UNU) is to host a Japan/Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Forum on "Technology Transfer and Development" beginning tomorrow in Tokyo. The two-day Forum is the fourth in a series that started in 1990 with the aim of building stronger relations between ASEAN countries and Japan.

About 40 scholars and experts from ASEAN members and other Asian countries are expected to attend the Forum. They will identify the factors that have made technology modification possible in the region, and will examine the conditions for successful technology transfer and modification on the basis of a comparative analysis of national experiences within the regional economic environment.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1523
17 November 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in resolution last night, establishes Commission of Inquiry to investigate attacks on UNOSOM II personnel; suspends arrest actions against individuals possibly implicated, but not currently detained pursuant to resolution 837 (1993), pending Commission report.

+ Security Council asks Secretary-General to continue using good offices through Special Representative to Burundi and to consider sending small United Nations team to help efforts of Government and OAU to restore democracy.

+ International Tribunal on war crimes in former Yugoslavia holds opening meeting in the Hague; Secretary-General's Representative says Tribunal will bring those guilty of war crimes to justice, deter new outrages and help bring peace to region.

+ Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq concludes first stage of investigation into allegations of chemical weapons use in south of country; to send inspection team to area of alleged attack.

+ Secretary-General extends mandate of Special Envoy for Tajikistan by five months to 31 March 1994; says concerted effort is needed to persuade Government and opposition groups to start serious peace talks.

* * *

The Security Council last night authorized the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate armed attacks on the personnel of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) that had led to casualties among them. In unanimously adopting resolution 885 (1993), the Council asked the Secretary-General to appoint the Commission at the earliest possible time and to report on its establishment. Pending completion of a report by the Commission, the Council also asked him to suspend arrest actions against those

(more)

For information media--not an official record

individuals who might be implicated, but were not currently detained pursuant to resolution 837 (1993), and to make appropriate provisions to deal with those already detained.

The Council urged the Secretary-General to provide the Commission with all necessary assistance, and asked the Commission to report its findings through him as soon as possible. Stressing that the people of Somalia bear ultimate responsibility for the achievement of national reconciliation and the protection of United Nations personnel, the Council called on all parties in Somalia to cooperate fully with the Commission.

In resolution 837 (1993), the Council condemned the unprovoked attack of 5 June 1993 against personnel of UNOSOM II and authorized the Secretary-General to take measures against those responsible. In that attack, 24 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 56 were wounded in the southern sector of Mogadishu, an area dominated by the Somali National Alliance (SNA) led by General Mohamed Farah Aidid.

Special Representative Jonathan Howe today welcomed the resolution, and expressed the hope that it would facilitate resumption of meaningful dialogue between UNOSOM II and the SNA.

* * *

The Security Council last night encouraged the Secretary-General to continue using his good offices through his Special Representative to Burundi and to consider dispatching a small United Nations fact-finding team to facilitate the efforts of the Burundi Government and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). In a statement read out by President José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Council also asked the Secretary-General to make recommendations for establishing a voluntary fund to assist the dispatch of an OAU mission as announced by the OAU Secretary-General.

The Council reiterated its condemnation of the abrupt and violent interruption of the democratic process in Burundi and demanded an immediate end to the violence there. It expressed alarm at the grave humanitarian situation which had resulted in the movement of over 700,000 refugees to neighbouring countries and an increasing number of internally displaced persons. The Council appealed to all States, international agencies and other humanitarian organizations to provide prompt humanitarian assistance to the civilian population in Burundi and neighbouring countries.

The Council also welcomed the OAU efforts to assist the Burundi Government in restoring democratic institutions, rebuilding confidence and stabilizing the situation. It also commended the Prime Minister of Burundi and other Government members for their courage and their spirit of reconciliation. The Council noted with satisfaction the dispatch of a Special Envoy on a good offices mission to facilitate the return of constitutional rule to Burundi and welcomed the appointment of Maxime Zollner as the

(more)

Secretary-General's Special Representative for the country. It asked the Secretary-General to keep it informed of the situation and the progress of the mission.

* * *

The International Tribunal set up to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia held its opening meeting in the Hague, Netherlands, today. The Tribunal, which was established by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, has the power to prosecute persons alleged to have committed or ordered the commission of grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, violations of the laws or customs of war, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide.

Today's meeting was declared open by the Secretary-General's Representative, Carl-August Fleischhauer, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel. Each of the eleven judges of the International Tribunal made a solemn declaration and the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands made a welcoming statement on behalf of his Government. Also present at the meeting was the Prosecutor-designate of the Tribunal, Ramon Escovar Salom, Attorney General of Venezuela.

Mr. Fleischhauer said in his statement that few Security Council decisions in recent years had created such expectations as the establishment of the Tribunal. Through the United Nations, the international community had reaffirmed its determination not to allow mass killings, so-called "ethnic cleansing", the systematic rape of women and other crimes to continue unabated, and to hold those responsible accountable before the law of nations.

In establishing the Tribunal, he continued, the Security Council had three important aims: to end the crimes being committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia; to bring to justice the persons responsible for them; and to break the seemingly endless cycle of ethnic violence and retribution by providing for prosecution and judgement under the rule of law and thereby contributing to the restoration of peace. Hopefully it would also help end the long nightmare of human suffering in the former Yugoslavia, he said.

* * *

The Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq today said it was concluding the first stage of its investigation into allegations of chemical weapons use in southern Iraq. In the second stage, an inspection team will be sent to Iraq to conduct a thorough inspection of the area of the alleged attack.

The main objective of the first stage, a fact-finding mission, was to find the precise location where the alleged attack had taken place. The Commission said that precise coordinates were now available, and that it would not comment on its investigation until the inspection had been concluded and the results analysed.

(more)

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to extend the mandate of his Special Envoy for Tajikistan, Ismat Kittani, for five months until 31 March 1994. In a report to the Security Council dated 14 November, he said developments in Tajikistan and the region gave grounds both for hope for a political solution to the conflict there and for serious concern about the risk of further deterioration of the situation. Concerted efforts were needed to overcome the remaining difficulties and to persuade the Government of Tajikistan and all major opposition groups to start a serious process of negotiation without further delay.

The Secretary-General said he would be ready to respond positively to any reasonable request by the parties and to recommend to the Security Council an appropriate international monitoring mechanism to help implement possible agreements concluded by them.

He noted that the Government of Tajikistan had asked him to establish a United Nations integrated office in Dushanbe, to advise and assist in developing the country's economic and social infrastructure and to coordinate international humanitarian efforts. It had also asked for advisory services regarding human rights and democratic institutions. Pending a decision by the General Assembly on the question of interim offices, he proposed that the small team of United Nations officials now in the country continue to perform its functions until the integrated office was established.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1524
18 November 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council decides unanimously to renew UNOSOM II mandate until 31 May 1994; asks Secretary-General to report by 15 January 1994 on progress made in Somalia and to provide updated plan for Operation's future concerted strategy; says it will undertake fundamental review of mandate by 1 February 1994 in light of report and plan.

+ Three parties to Bosnian conflict, meeting in Geneva under auspices of UNHCR, agree to suspend hostilities to allow humanitarian deliveries; say peace is needed if catastrophe is to be averted this winter.

+ Special Representative Stoltenberg tells Security Council that despite tremendous efforts and some successes in former Yugoslavia, United Nations can not make peace for parties, but can only help them to do so.

+ Secretary-General welcomes agreement reached in South Africa on interim constitution; pledges continued support for peace process; General Assembly President says tolerance and cooperation should prevail in lead-up to 1994 election.

+ In address at West Point Military Academy, Secretary-General says success of United Nations peace operations depends on finding balance between inaction and total intervention; multilateralism is key, with no one country dominating operation.

+ Secretary-General appoints Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries, as Special Representative for Burundi.

+ Italy tells Third Committee of need for United Nations human rights court to deal with disputes between individuals and States.

(more)

For information media- -not an official record

+ Committee on Palestinian Rights adopts report to General Assembly, calling for renewed international support for Palestinian people to ensure the successful implementation of recent peace agreements.

* * *

Acting under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council today renewed the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) until 31 May 1994. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report to it by 15 January 1994 on progress made in achieving national reconciliation by the Somali people and in attaining political, security and humanitarian goals, and to provide an updated plan setting out UNOSOM II's future concerted strategy with regard to its political, security and humanitarian activities. The Council said it would undertake a fundamental review of UNOSOM II's mandate by 1 February 1994 in the light of that report and plan. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 886 (1993).

The Council urged all parties in Somalia, including movements and factions, to accelerate their efforts to achieve political reconciliation, peace and security, and to immediately abide by the Addis Ababa cease-fire and disarmament agreements. It underscored the importance of the establishment of district and regional councils, an interim national authority, and an operational police, penal and judiciary system as soon as feasible. The Council reminded all Somali parties that continued United Nations involvement in the country depended on their active cooperation and tangible progress towards a political settlement.

The Council emphasized the link between national rehabilitation and progress in the process of national reconciliation, and encouraged donor countries to contribute to the country's rehabilitation as demonstrable political progress occurred. The Council requested the Secretary-General to ask the Somalia Trust Fund Committee to review claims and make payments on an urgent basis, and urged Member States to make funds available for priority projects, including the reestablishment of the Somali police and demining, on an urgent basis.

* * *

The three parties to the Bosnian conflict, meeting in Geneva under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Sadako Ogata, today signed a Joint Declaration providing for the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to avert a humanitarian catastrophe this winter.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban agreed to suspend hostilities and to allow humanitarian access by the most effective land routes; to ensure complete and secure freedom of movement for personnel of the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations; and to allow the UNHCR and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to determine the content of assistance and to ensure that it was not used for military purposes. The

(more)

parties also undertook to ensure that humanitarian assistance reached the intended civilian beneficiaries; to release, in accordance with ICRC principles, all civilians unlawfully detained; and to ensure that military and civilian administrations honoured their commitments with respect for freedom of movement and other human rights and the Geneva Conventions.

Mrs. Ogata appealed to the signatorees to honour their commitments and to redouble their efforts to reach a just and lasting peace. She warned that the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina were in a desperate situation and said that if the commitments were ignored, the responsibility of the three parties would be "direct and inescapable".

* * *

Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg today told the Security Council that while the United Nations had made tremendous efforts in the former Yugoslavia, and had achieved some successes there, it could not make peace for the parties -- it could only help them to do so. "No one should underestimate the complexities of getting the warring parties to stop fighting," he said. "This is an area where there is an abundance of arms and a readiness to use them."

Mr. Stoltenberg said the international community should continue to provide good offices and assistance to help bring an end to the conflict and to help the parties change course towards peace and reconstruction. However, it was the responsibility of the parties to choose peace over war.

The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other humanitarian organizations had helped avert a humanitarian disaster last year and would now make the difference between survival and disaster for 4.2 million people, Mr. Stoltenberg noted. UNPROFOR had also helped to contain the conflict in Croatia, while the preventive deployment of United Nations forces in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia had helped to promote confidence and stability in a potentially volatile area. While fighting continued in parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it had lessened in scale and intensity. He went on to say that the parties to the Bosnian conflict should not be invited to further talks under the auspices of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia without a realistic basis for continued negotiations, as another unsuccessful round of talks would only add to frustrations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has welcomed the historic agreement reached yesterday by participants at South Africa's Multi-Party Negotiations on an interim constitution, according to a United Nations spokesman. The agreement crowned three years of very difficult negotiations and would lay the framework for South Africa's transition to a united, democratic and non-racial country, he said.

(more)

The Secretary-General congratulated all South Africans who had continued to support the peace process despite many impediments, including mounting violence and intimidation. He reiterated that the United Nations would continue to support that process and was ready to help the South African people face the formidable challenges ahead, and with their efforts to facilitate the country's first multi-party democratic elections, scheduled for April 1994.

Welcoming the agreement on the constitution, General Assembly President Samuel Insanally (Guyana) expressed the hope that peace, tolerance and cooperation would prevail in the months leading up to the elections.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, addressing students at the United States Military Academy at West Point this evening, said that the challenges facing the world were more complex in the post-cold war era, and that it was now harder to agree on what action to take. For the United Nations, with its unique global role, it was essential that a balance be found between general inaction and widespread intervention, and between prudence and over-extension.

Participating in the Academy's forty-fifth annual Students Conference on United States Affairs, the Secretary-General said the key to the success of United Nations peace operations was an understanding of and commitment to multilateralism and the multilateral force. To be effective, a multinational United Nations force must be recognised as impartial, with many nations participating; it must appear free of political or economic motives, with no one country's forces or commanders dominating the operation; and it must achieve unity within multilateralism. He said that troop-contributing countries were entitled to know the length of their obligation to a peace-keeping operation, but added that they should also be expected to carry out that obligation in full.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has designated Ahmedou Ould Abdallah as his Special Representative for Burundi with immediate effect. The appointment will be at the Assistant-Secretary-General level and will be for a period of three months initially.

Mr. Ould Abdallah is currently the United Nations Special Coordinator for Africa and the Least Developed Countries. From 1984 to 1991, he served as Special Coordinator for New and Renewable Sources of Energy and Energy Issues.

* * *

A United Nations court for human rights should be established to deal with disputes between individuals and States, the representative of Italy told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday as it began consideration of the implementation of human rights instruments. He suggested

(more)

that it could also address disputes arising between States, provided that the defendant State had accepted the court's jurisdiction.

The Italian representative said a special ad hoc body, similar to the European Commission, could be made responsible for setting up the court, regulating its competence, and providing for rules and conditions for individual access to it. He stressed that the will of States to submit to its jurisdiction would be critical to the court's establishment, and that a legally binding international norm should be given the same interpretation and should be applied in the same manner in any part of the world.

* * *

The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People yesterday adopted its report to the General Assembly, calling for intensified international support for the Palestinian people in order to ensure the successful implementation of the peace agreements with Israel. It reaffirmed the "permanent responsibility of the UN with respect to the question of Palestine until it is resolved in all its aspects".

Chairman Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal) said the Committee would meet again at a time to be announced to consider draft resolutions on the question of Palestine to be presented to the Assembly. The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, which would be celebrated on 29 November, took on particular importance this year in view of the developments taking place in the Middle East, he said.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1525
19 November 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ International Tribunal on war crimes in former Yugoslavia, meeting in The Hague, elects Antonio Cassese (Italy) as its President and Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica) as Vice-President.

+ In 18 months, Department of Humanitarian Affairs has coordinated system-wide response to humanitarian needs of 58.5 million people and to victims of 197 natural disasters, General Assembly President says as Assembly begins debate on United Nations humanitarian emergency assistance.

+ WFP approves emergency operation to provide relief assistance to 300,000 most needy refugees and displaced people in Azerbaijan; 926,000 in need of aid as a result of conflict with Armenia.

+ Germany informs Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations of possible reduction in German contingent in Somalia.

+ Fifth Meeting of Parties to Montreal Protocol on protection of ozone layer confirms that $455 million is needed over next three years for Protocol's Multilateral Fund to help developing countries apply control measures.

* * *

The International Tribunal set up to prosecute serious violations of international humanitarian law in the former Yugoslavia, meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, yesterday elected Antonio Cassese (Italy) as its President and Elizabeth Odio Benito (Costa Rica) as its Vice-President. Mr. Cassese is a member of the Human Rights Commission appointed by the Italian Prime Minister and a delegate of the Italian Government to the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights. Mrs. Odio Benito has been Costa Rica's Minister of Justice since May 1990. The Tribunal's 11 Judges also elected the Officers and Members of the Appeals Chamber and Trial Chambers.

The Tribunal, which was established by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, has the power to prosecute persons alleged

(more)

For information media--not an official record

to have committed or ordered the commission of grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, violations of the laws or customs of war, crimes against humanity and crimes of genocide.

* * *

General Assembly President Samuel R. Insanally (Guyana) told the Assembly this morning that since its establishment 18 months ago, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs had facilitated timely and coordinated system-wide response to the humanitarian needs of 58.5 million people in 26 countries, as well as to the victims of 107 natural disasters. He was opening the Assembly's consideration of ways of strengthening the coordination of United Nations humanitarian emergency assistance, and its review of the report of the Secretary-General on the matter.

The representative of Colombia, speaking on behalf of the "Group of 77" developing countries and China, said it was important that humanitarian assistance be provided with neutrality and impartiality. He pointed out too that there had been numerous "silent" emergencies which did not get the attention of the international media, such as extreme poverty. It was no use responding to emergency disasters if the people could not return to their homes and resume work, he said. He appealed to the donor countries to consolidated appeals, stressing the necessity of increasing the resources of the Central Emergency Revolving Fund.

The representative of Belgium, speaking on behalf of the European Union, supported the call for the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to determine the responsibilities of the various agencies involved in humanitarian assistance. He also highlighted the question of preventive security of staff involved in such assistance and condemned attacks against them. Although it was difficult to guarantee their safety, preventive measures must be emphasized, he said.

* * *

The World Food Programme (WFP) has approved an emergency operation to provide relief assistance to 300,000 of the most vulnerable refugees and displaced people in Azerbaijan. WFP will urge donors to provide 9,000 metric tons of food commodities -- worth $7.2 million -- to meet the requirements of those most in need for six months. According to the most recent United Nations estimates, about 926,000 people in Azerbaijan need relief assistance as a result of the conflict with Armenia. This includes 251,000 refugees from Armenia and Uzbekistan.

Many of the displaced people and refugees are living on the road-sides with few belongings and rapidly dwindling food stocks. According to WFP, although the Government of Azerbaijan is committed to providing each refugee with a small monthly cash allowance, the country is not equipped to deal with a crisis of this magnitude.

* * *

(more)

The Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations has informed Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, of a possible reduction in the size of the German contingent in Somalia, a United Nations spokesman said today. The issue had been the subject of previous consultations between the German Mission and the Department of Peace-Keeping Operations.

The reduction was intended to readjust the capability of the German troops to the tasks entrusted to them, according to the spokesman. He said that the reduction should not be perceived as a withdrawal of the German contingent and that Mr. Annan fully understood the reason for it. As of the end of October, Germany had 1,731 troops in Somalia.

* * *

The Fifth Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, which took place this week in Bangkok, has confirmed that a total of $455 million will be needed from developed countries over the next three years for the Protocol's Multilateral Fund.

The Fund was established by the 78 parties to the Montreal Protocol to help developing countries put the Protocol's control measures into practice. It is used, at the request of national Governments, to cover the costs of developing programmes for phasing out the production and consumption of ozone-depleting substances, including aerosols, foams, refrigeration and air-conditioning plants, solvents and halons.

Established as a $240 million interim facility for 1991-1993, the Fund is financed by contributions from industrialized countries. An Executive Committee, assisted by a secretariat, approves the allocation of funds and develops guidelines for its administration. Four agencies are involved in its implementation: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Bank.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1526
22 November 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ General Assembly calls on United Nations and League of Arab States to intensify cooperation to strengthen international peace and security, development and self-determination; urges ECLAC and UNDP to expand coordination with Latin American Economic System.

+ Special Commission team concludes on-site investigation into alleged use of chemical weapons in Iraqi marshlands; no immediate evidence found, but definitive finding subject to lengthy laboratory analysis.

+ Somalis select regional delegates to attend Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia, beginning in Addis Ababa next Monday.

+ Deputy-Prime Minister of Iraq, meeting with Secretary-General at Headquarters, says his country seeks to build confidence with United Nations.

• • •

The General Assembly today called on the United Nations and the League of Arab States to intensify cooperation on strengthening international peace and security, development, disarmament, decolonization, self-determination and the eradication of racism and racial discrimination. Acting without a vote, the Assembly also urged the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other agencies to expand coordination with the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

The Assembly also considered the question of cooperation with the Organization of the Islamic Conference and with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), but postponed action on related draft resolutions to a later date. The representative of Israel called on the Arab League to end its boycott against his country, citing the enormous advantages of regional economic cooperation. "Peace and economic cooperation go hand-in-hand", he said. "Economic boycott runs counter to the principles of the peace process and delays reconciliation between the countries of the region." The observer for the Arab League said it sought the consolidation of peace in the region,

(more)

For information media--not an official record

and supported the call for the withdrawal of Israel from all occupied territories. In order to achieve the objective of land for peace, steps should be taken to ensure the right of return of the Palestinian people.

* * *

A team sent by the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq to investigate allegations of the use of chemical weapons in marshlands north-west of Basrah yesterday concluded its on-site work, according to the Commission. No immediate evidence of the use of chemical weapons was found, but a definitive finding will not be reached until samples taken at the site have been analysed. That process could take some months.

The team conducted a thorough inspection of the site and took a large number of soil, water, flora and fauna samples which will be analysed in various laboratories. The Commission also obtained certain documents the authenticity and relevance of which is subject to investigation.

* * *

Somali civilian leaders are in the process of selecting regional delegates to attend the Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia which begins in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 29 November, according to the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). So far, delegates from eight regions have been selected. Some 90 delegates from the country's 18 regions are expected to participate in the three-day Conference.

Meanwhile, a UNOSOM II team has been travelling through the country discussing arrangements for the Conference with Somalis from all walks of life. In addition to discussing Conference arrangements, the team has been reviewing such issues as the need for Somalia's ultimate recovery to be firmly based on the efforts and contributions of the Somali people.

The Conference, which will be chaired by Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, will be attended by representatives of donor Governments, regional organizations, United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations. The major objectives will be: to agree on how to address immediate relief and rehabilitation needs; to agree on strategies to be followed and rehabilitation activities to be undertaken; to agree on what Somali and international institutions will be needed to manage the reconstruction process pending a functioning national administration; and to familiarize participants with the implications of Somali ownership of the recovery and development process. In particular, discussions are expected to focus on the responsibilities of Somalis for the creation and maintenance of a secure and safe environment, as well as the consequences of continuing insecurity and instability.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today at Headquarters with the Deputy-Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, and exchanged views on all

(more)

outstanding issues concerning that country's compliance with United Nations resolutions, according to a spokesman for the Organization. Mr. Aziz expressed his Government's willingness and desire to build confidence between the United Nations and Iraq.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1527
23 November 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Co-Chairmen of International Conference invite parties in former Yugoslavia to meet in Geneva next Monday to explore ways to break political deadlock in Bosnian conflict; possible territorial concessions to be discussed along with issue of sanctions against Federal Republic.

+ General Assembly begins debate on composition of Security Council; among other points, speakers call for rotated regional seats and for abolition of veto power.

+ United Nations appeals for $9.5 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for Burundi to cover basic survival needs of 250,000 people displaced by ethnic violence following recent attempted coup.

+ Special Rapporteur on Human Rights says United Nations should continue to observe human rights situation in Haiti; democratic process requires international aid and culture of respect for rights.

+ WFP says $100 million will be needed next year to provide food aid to refugees and people displaced by civil war in Afghanistan.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, have invited the parties to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia to a meeting in Geneva next Monday with a view to resolving the crisis in the territory, Alvaro de Soto, the Secretary-General's Senior Political Adviser, said today. The meeting had been suggested by European Foreign Ministers meeting in Luxembourg yesterday. The aim is to build on the agreement reached last week on humanitarian access in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to explore ways to break the political deadlock in the former Yugoslavia. Mr. de Soto said the possibility of territorial concessions in favour of the Bosnian Muslims would be discussed in the context of a possible gradual relaxation of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

(more)

For information media--not an official record

The response to the Co-Chairmen's invitations had been positive, Mr. de Soto went on to say. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic had already accepted. The Co-Chairmen had also invited United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev to send observers to the meeting.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning began its debate on the question of equitable representation on and an increase in the membership of the Security Council. The item was first included in the agenda of the 34th session of the Assembly in 1979. Consideration was deferred from year to year until last year, when, at its 46th session, the Assembly decided to include it on the agenda of the 47th session. The Assembly asked the Secretary-General to invite Member States to submit no later than 30 June of this year written comments on a possible review of the membership of the Council and for him to submit these to this session for consideration. He received 75 replies from Members States.

Some speakers today called for establishment of permanent regional seats, to be rotated among members of various regional groups. The representatives of Syria and the United Arab Emirates stressed in particular the importance of having an Arab seat on the Council. A number of speakers described the veto power as anachronistic and undemocratic, and said it should be abolished. The representative of Chile said the category of permanent members without the veto could include Germany and Japan, while the representative of Germany said his country was prepared to accept a permanent seat. In contrast with many other speakers, the representative of Malaysia said his country opposed the addition of new permanent seats on the Council.

A United Nations spokesperson said that the General Assembly President hoped to establish an open-ended working group on the restructuring of the Council following the conclusion of the Assembly's debate on the item. At that time he would introduce a consensus draft decision by which the Assembly would set up the working group. Meanwhile, the President was today continuing consultations with Members on the proposal.

* * *

The United Nations today launched an appeal for $9.5 million in emergency humanitarian assistance for Burundi, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Emergency Relief Coordinator and Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Eliasson, said that the money was urgently needed to meet the basic survival needs of 250,000 people in Burundi who had fled their homes because of the recent ethnic violence in the country. The appeal covers a 90-day period to February 1994.

The violence in Burundi, which erupted after an attempted military coup on 21 October, has forced close to a million people to leave their homes. Apart from those displaced within the country, almost 700,000 have fled across

(more)

its borders into Rwanda, Tanzania and Zaire. According to the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the continuing volatility of the situation means that still more people might flee in search of safety.

* * *

The United Nations should continue to observe and remain apprised of the human rights situation in Haiti, and the joint United Nations/Organization of American States (OAS) Civilian Mission should remain there for as long as is necessary, according to the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, Marco Tulio Bruni Celli (Venezuela). He made those recommendations in a report on the situation of human rights in Haiti, which was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly today. The Special Rapporteur also recommended that the various groups in Haitian society should be required to honour the commitments they assumed when they signed the Governors Island Agreement and the New York Pact.

The report said that a programme for the promotion of human rights, aimed specifically at the military and police authorities and members of human rights organizations, should be set up with the participation of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur. The report concluded that the political, economic and social situation in Haiti should continue to be monitored, and said that the democratic process there required international aid and cooperation and the establishment of a culture of respect for human rights.

* * *

More than $100 million will be needed in 1994 to provide humanitarian food aid to refugees and displaced people uprooted by the prolonged civil war in Afghanistan, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). The WFP -- the United Nations organization responsible for channelling all multilateral food aid to Afghanistan -- says more than 4 million refugees and some 1 million internally displaced people need food assistance. Moreover, damage to infrastructure and agricultural production has left the country with an expected wheat deficit of more than 1 million tons in 1993 and 1994.

WFP's governing body last month approved three projects to provide almost 34,000 tons of food commodities to Afghan refugees next year. This includes assistance to 2 million refugees in Pakistan and Iran and to nearly 500,000 internally displaced people in Afghanistan. Despite the signing of the Afghan peace accords in Islamabad last March and the Jalalabad Accords in May, conflict between rival Mujahideen parties continues to devastate villages, towns and cities, inflicting a heavy toll on the civilian population. Since food shortages are expected to be critical in urban areas for some time, part of WFP's relief assistance in Afghanistan will be directed to the urban poor.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1528
24 November 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General presents proposed programme budget of $2,749 million for 1994-1995 to Fifth Committee; notes real growth of only 1 per cent despite United Nations' growing work-load; says Organization needs sound and reliable financial foundation.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, welcomes South African multi-party agreements on interim constitution and electoral bill; invites Secretary-General to accelerate planning for possible United Nations role in country's election process.

+ Security Council, in second Presidential statement, demands that Iraq respect inviolability of Iraq-Kuwait border and prevent violations of it; expresses serious concern about recent incidents reported by UNIKOM.

+ Commission of Inquiry is appointed by Secretary-General to investigate armed attacks on UNOSOM II personnel; Commission's three members are in New York for consultations and to determine investigative procedures.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today presented the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 -- the first full budget to be prepared under his direction -- to the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). He told the Committee that the budget, which amounted to $2,749 million, provided the means for the United Nations to rise to the new challenges in the wake of the cold war. It reflected real growth of only 1 per cent and a net addition of only 68 posts despite the massive expansion of the Organization's work-load.

In preparing the budget, the Secretary-General said he had sought to enhance the capacity of the United Nations in the political and humanitarian areas, to strengthen its role in international economic and social cooperation, and to increase managerial responsibility and administrative efficiency. He added that the restructuring and rationalization of the

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Organization, which had already brought about a reduction of 25 per cent in the number of high-level posts, should continue.

The Secretary-General called attention to the financial situation of the United Nations, and expressed the hope that Member States and the Secretariat would work closely together to provide it with a sound and reliable financial foundation. He noted that unpaid contributions to the regular budget now totalled $525 million; only 71 Member States had paid their assessments in full, while 42 had made no payments at all this year. Meanwhile, unpaid contributions to peace-keeping totalled $1,175 million. By the end of the year, $400 million would be owed to troop-contributing countries.

* * *

The Security Council last night welcomed the multi-party agreements on an interim constitution and electoral bill in South Africa and invited the Secretary-General to accelerate planning for a possible United Nations role in the election process there. In a statement read out by its President, José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Council said such contingency planning would include coordination with the observer missions of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the European Community and the Commonwealth to expedite consideration of a request for assistance. It also commended the work being done by the Secretary-General and the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA).

The Council urged the early establishment of the Transitional Executive Council and the Independent Electoral Commission. It also urged all parties in South Africa, including those which did not participate fully in the multi-party talks, to respect agreements reached during the negotiations, to recommit themselves to democratic principles, to take part in the elections and to resolve outstanding issues by peaceful means only. Stating that South Africa's transition to democracy must be underpinned by economic and social development, the Council called for international assistance in that regard.

* * *

The Security Council last night demanded that Iraq respect the inviolability of the Iraq-Kuwait border and take all necessary means to prevent violations of that international boundary. In a statement read out by its President, José Luis Jesus (Cape Verde), the Council expressed serious concern about recent violations of the Iraq-Kuwait boundary as reported by the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), most notably on 16 and 20 November when large numbers of Iraqi nationals crossed the boundary illegally. The Council held the Government of Iraq responsible for those breaches.

The Council reminded Iraq of its obligations under resolution 687 (1991), which formed the basis of the cease-fire after the Gulf War, and under other relevant resolutions, including most recently resolution 833 (1993), which affirmed the work of the Iraq-Kuwait Border Demarcation Commission and the boundary determined by the Commission.

(more)

The reported violations of the demilitarized zone were brought to the Council's attention in letters from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait which described two separate incidents during which crowds of Iraqis converged on different border points. In each case, the Iraqis reportedly surrounded and threw sticks and stones at workers who were digging a trench on the Kuwaiti side. The letters stated that both incidents appeared to be orchestrated acts of provocation and suggested that the Council exert pressure on Iraq to desist from further violations.

* * *

A Commission of Inquiry has been appointed by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali to investigate armed attacks on personnel serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) which led to casualties among them. The move was authorized by resolution 885 (1993), which was adopted by the Security Council on 16 November to further implementation of its earlier resolutions on the matter.

The members of the Commission are: Matthew S.W. Ngulube, the Chief Justice of Zambia, who will serve as Chairman; General Emmanuel Erskine (retired) of Ghana, and General Gustave Hagglund of Finland. According to a United Nations spokesman, they have assembled in New York for consultations and to determine procedures for carrying out their investigation, as directed by the Security Council. A separate secretariat has been established to assist them, with Winston Tubman of the Office of Legal Affairs serving as Executive Secretary. The Commission has been requested to complete its investigation as soon as possible.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1529
26 November 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, will be leaving United Nations in January 1994; will remain available after that to undertake special missions on behalf of Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General recommends to Security Council that mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force be extended for further six months; says that despite present calm, situation between Israel and Syria remains dangerous.

+ Difficulties between parties in Western Sahara made it impossible to hold free and fair referendum by end of 1993, Secretary-General reports to Security Council; says that if progress is made, referendum might be possible in mid-1994.

+ Secretary-General recommends that mandate of United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador be extended to end of May 1994; says recent developments were threaten peace process, and that ONUSAL's presence will be critically important in run-up to election next year.

+ Mandate of United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus should be extended till 15 June 1994, Secretary-General says in report to Security Council; says he will be resuming intensive contacts with both sides after elections in Turkish Cypriot community on 12 December.

+ World NGO Forum launching International Year of Family begins in Malta on Malta on Sunday; Nearly 1,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations from 100 countries will examine theme of families as basic unit of society.

* * *

Jan Eliasson, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and the United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator, will be leaving his position at the end of January 1994 to take up a senior post with the Swedish Foreign Ministry. Announcing the resignation today, a United Nations spokesman said

(more)

For information media--not an official record

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali had reluctantly agreed to release Mr. Eliasson from his present responsibilities, but had asked him to remain available thereafter to undertake special missions on his behalf. Mr. Eliasson had agreed to do so.

The Under-Secretary-General will be chairing the Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance for Somalia which begins in Addis Ababa on Monday. The spokesman said Mr. Boutros-Ghali had expressed his full backing and best wishes for success for Mr. Eliasson in that endeavour, and also in his forthcoming duties. He had paid tribute to the key role Mr. Eliasson had played in establishing the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and to his commitment to the work of the United Nations.

* * *

Despite the present quiet in the Israel-Syria sector, the situation there remains potentially dangerous, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said in a report to the Security Council, dated 22 November, on the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF). Unless and until a comprehensive settlement could be reached which covers all aspects of the Middle East problem, it was likely to remain so. Consequently, he recommended that the Council extend the mandate of the Force for a further period of six months, until 31 May 1994.

He wrote that he continued to hope that determined efforts would be made by all concerned to tackle the problem, with a view to arriving at a just and durable peace settlement. But under the prevailing conditions, he considered UNDOF's presence in the area to be essential. Both the Syrian Government and the Israeli Government, he said, had given their assent to the proposed extension of the Force's mandate.

* * *

In view of remaining difficulties between the parties to the conflict in Western Sahara, it would not be possible to fulfil the goal of holding a free and fair referendum there by the end of this year, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said. In a report to the Security Council on the matter, dated 24 November, he said, however, that on the assumption that those difficulties were settled and that progress was made in the intitial stages of the voter registration process, he hoped to be able to report to the Council early next year with a detailed timetable for holding the referendum in mid-1994. He also hoped to present at that time his recommendations for the necessary adjustments to the present strength of United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

He pointed out that any estimated date set at this stage still bore little meaning unless both parties, the Moroccan Government and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Rio de Oro (POLISARIO), demonstrated a spirit of cooperation and forebearance. Without that, he

(more)

stressed, it would remain impossible to implement the settlement plan. He said he proposed to maintain the existing military and civilian strength of MINURSO until his next report.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for a further six months, until the end of May 1994. In a report on ONUSAL dated 23 November, he said that while impressive progress had been made in implementing the Peace Accords in El Salvador, recent developments were threatening the previous achievements, especially as the electoral campaign got under way. Those developments had included a series of murders of political figures, suggesting a possible re-emergence of the "death squads" familiar during the country's civil war.

The Secretary-General said that the elections and the transition to the administration of the newly elected President, to be inaugurated next June, would be a critically important period. It was clearly necessary for ONUSAL to continue to carry out its verification and good offices functions throughout that time. He said he had just received a recommendation from his Special Representative for El Salvador for some additional police observers to be assigned to ONUSAL and for a modest increase in the Mission's economic and political staff, but that recommendation was still under consideration.

As regards the future on ONUSAL beyond 31 May 1994, at present he felt it would be desirable to keep the Mission in existence, at reduced strength, for a further period of a few months, to verify the full deployment of the National Civil Police and the implementation of other major p nts in the Peace Accords.

* * *

While continuing consultations on the subject with the parties in Cyprus, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended to the Security Council that it extend the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for a further six months, until 15 June 1994. In a report dated 22 November, he said that he would be resuming intensive contacts with both sides and with Turkey after the elections in the Turkish Cypriot community on 12 December.

It was expected, he said, that the Turkish Government's declared support for the package of proposed confidence-building measures might bring about positive results. It was also essential, he said, that the Greek Cypriot side demonstrate its readiness to take the specific steps called for in the package. He said he would report further to the Council on the outcome of his efforts by the end of February 1994.

(more)

He once again urged that as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces envisaged in the set of ideas, the Turkish forces on the island by reduced to their 1982 level and that this be reciprocated be a suspension of weapons acquisition programmes on the Greek Cypriot side.

* * *

A World NGO Forum launching the International Year of the Family will be held in Valletta, Malta, from Sunday, 28 November, to Thursday, 2 December 1993. Nearly 1,000 representatives of non-governmental organizations from 100 countries will be participating. "Promoting Families for the Well-being of Individuals and Societies" is the Forum's theme, reflecting the view that the International Year of the Family is an opportunity to promote social issues as part of sustainable development, and to integrate events regarding women, children, disabled persons, youth and the elderly.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 1994 as the International Year of the Family to create greater awareness of the family as the fundamental unit of society and to promote activities supporting families among Governments, policy-makers and the public. The NGO Forum will provide a platform for exchanging and generating ideas and activities, thus serving as a catalyst for further action on behalf of families.

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1530
29 November 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Three warring parties in Bosnian conflict, meeting in Geneva, agree to immediately resume talks on basis of plan presented by European Union; military representatives sign Joint Declaration confirming 18 November agreement on humanitarian access throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Security Council extends mandate of United Nations Disengagement Observer Force, supervising cease-fire and Agreement on Disengagement between Israel and Syria, for further six months.

+ Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia begins in Addis Ababa; Chairman Jan Eliasson stresses shift from life-saving measures to rehabilitation; calls on donors to support priority activities of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations.

+ International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People commemorated today; speakers in Palestinian Rights Committee stress need for international support for Israeli/PLO accords and for efforts to achieve just and lasting peace.

+ UNMIH unable to implement its mandate until Haiti's military leaders honour Governors Island Agreement, Secretary-General reports to Security Council; says United Nations efforts will continue but major attitude change is needed on part of military.

+ Secretary-General appoints Justice Michael Kirby of Australia as Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia.

* * *

At a meeting in Geneva today, the three warring parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to immediately resume negotiations on the basis of a plan of action put forward by the 12 Foreign Ministers of the European Union. The plan envisages a progressive and conditional suspension of some of the sanctions imposed by the United Nations on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) in exchange for Serbian territorial concessions to the

(more)

For information media - not an official record

Bosnian Government, and a "modus vivendi" in Serb-inhabited United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia. The negotiations, which will last another day or two, will be under the auspices of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, who convened today's meeting.

Also in Geneva today, military representatives of the three Bosnian parties signed a Joint Declaration confirming the 18 November agreement on humanitarian access throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. They acknowledged that if that agreement was not honoured, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) would use "all available means including force" to get relief aid through. In a report to the European Ministers, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata had said that the agreement was not being observed, that hostilities had not been suspended and that the parties' commitment to ensure complete freedom of movement for United Nations and other international humanitarian workers was not being fulfilled.

In a message delivered by Special Representative Stoltenberg, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali told participants at today's meeting that the Bosnian peoples could be spared further suffering this winter if those who governed them would exercise the necessary leadership and responsibility. An end to the conflict would also create conditions in which the international community could begin to help the peoples of the former Yugoslavia and their neighbours re-establish normal relations and reconstruct their societies and economies.

* * *

The Security Council, by unanimously adopting resolution 887 (1993), today decided to renew the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force for six months until 31 May 1994. UNDOF was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and Agreement on Disengagement between Israel and Syria.

The Council called on the parties concerned to implement immediately resolution 338 (1973), which called for a just and durable peace settlement in the region, and asked the Secretary-General to report at the end of the six-month period on measures taken to implement that resolution.

In a report on UNDOF dated 22 November, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said that the situation in the Israel-Syria sector remained potentially dangerous despite the present quiet there. It was likely to remain so unless and until a comprehensive settlement covering all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached, he added.

* * *

The Fourth Coordination Meeting on Humanitarian Assistance to Somalia began today in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with an opening statement by Chairman Jan Eliasson, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs. He said that remarkable progress had been made in Somalia despite the chain of events since

(more)

5 June and limited resources, but that signs of recovery could be reversed if the situation did not continue to improve. He noted a shift in emphasis from life-saving measures to rehabilitation and reconstruction, and called on donors to support priority activities of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations. Employment opportunities were needed if the militia were to be demobilized, refugees had to be resettled, social services had to be rehabilitated, and production and trade had to be resumed in a secure and stable environment, he stressed.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative, Jonathan Howe, told the Meeting that the emergency relief battle had been won, and that there were no more "walking skeletons" in Somalia. The country had come back to life and its story could have a happy ending despite setbacks and arguments. Admiral Howe said the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) was embarking on a policy shift based on four pillars. The Operation would now seek: to accelerate Somali ownership of the processes and the transitional mechanisms leading to recovery of the institutions of governance; to give priority for development resources to regions that achieved political reconciliation; to increase reliance on the Somali police for security; and to shift the emphasis from disarmament to demobilization of Somali youth.

In his address, Ethiopian President Mali Zenawi said all temptations to impose solutions on Somalia shuld be resisted, because imposed solutions would not work. He stressed that the challenge facing the international community in Somalia was humanitarian and political and not military in nature.

* * *

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People was commemorated today by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. In a message marking the occasion, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the present optimism about a settlement of the Middle East conflict must not overshadow the challenges ahead. There were still extremist factions on both sides who had contradictory objectives but a common interest in opposing the accord reached between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). It was the duty of the international community, he said, to support unwaveringly the efforts of the Palestinian and Israeli people to achieve and preserve peace.

Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the PLO, said in a statement read out by Nasser Al-Kidwa, Permanent Observer for Palestine, that the Middle East region was at a strategic crossroads: it could either move forward on the track of democracy, development and prosperity, or it could be pushed into the abyss of confusion, wars, calamities and balkanization. Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), Chairman of the Palestinian Rights Committee, stressed the need for the full engagement of the United Nations in the peace process and the process of building the Palestinian National Authority, as well as in providing broad assistance to the Palestinian people.

(more)

* * *

The United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) will not be able to implement its mandate until Haiti's military leaders live up to the commitments entered into under the Governors Island Agreement of last July, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 26 November, the Secretary-General said a clear and substantial change of attitude was needed on the part of the military. He said he would continue efforts, with the assistance of his Special Representative, to bring about such a change in order to ensure implementation of the Agreement and the participation of the United Nations in the peace process.

The Security Council established UNMIH last September to train the Haitian police and to monitor police operations, and to modernize the Haitian Armed Forces. However, according to the Secretary-General, the Mission's mandate was "seriously undermined" by various developments in Haiti which constituted non-compliance by the Armed Forces with the Governors Island Agreement. On October 11, an UNMIH military contingent was prevented from disembarking from the USS Harlan County in Port-au-Prince, and on October 15 a decision was taken to evacuate the bulk of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH).

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Justice Michael Kirby of Australia as his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia. Justice Kirby is President of the Court of Appeal, New Supreme Court of New South Wales in Sydney, and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Commission of Jurists.

The Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 1993/6, asked the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative to maintain contact with the Government and people of Cambodia; to guide and coordinate the United Nations human rights presence in the country; and to help the Government in the promotion and protection of human rights. The resolution asked the Special Representative to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session and to the Commission at its fiftieth session. It also asked the Secretary-General to ensure a continued United Nations human rights presence in Cambodia after the expiry of the mandate of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

* *** *

United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1531
30 November 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, condemning recent violence in El Salvador and expressing concern at partial implementation of Peace Accords, extends mandate of ONUSAL until 31 May 1994; calls on authorities to ensure that March 1994 elections are free and fair and asks Secretary-General to continue to assist in that regard.

+ Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Georgia begins first round of negotiations in Geneva today between Georgian and Abkhaz sides of conflict in Abkhazia.

+ Libya, in letter to Secretary-General, stresses readiness to cooperate with Security Council resolution regarding bombings of Pan Am and UTA planes; says it is willing to receive United Nations mission to verify that there are no terrorist training camps or groups in country.

+ Secretary-General, in message to CSCE Council meeting in Rome, stresses importance of regional organizations in dealing with regional problems, and value of understanding among peoples as way to curb ethnic enmity.

* * *

The Security Council today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) until 31 May 1994. The Council condemned recent acts of violence in the country and expressed concern that important elements of the Peace Accords remained only partially implemented. It urged the Government of El Salvador and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to prevent political violence and to accelerate compliance with the Accords. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 888 (1993).

The Council called on the authorities in El Salvador to ensure that the elections to be held in March 1994 be free and fair and asked the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance in that regard. It warned that the recent violence could, if unchecked, negatively affect the peace process and the elections. The Council also reaffirmed the need for full and

(more)

For information media--not an official record

timely implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth. It urged the Government of El Salvador and the FMLN to remove all obstacles to implementation of the land transfer programme and stressed the need to accelerate reintegration programmes for ex-combatants of both sides in conformity with the Peace Accords.

The Council reaffirmed its support for the Secretary-General's use of his good offices in the peace process and for his efforts, in cooperation with the Government, aimed at the launching of an impartial and credible investigation into illegal armed groups. It called on all parties concerned to cooperate with the Secretary-General's Special Representative and ONUSAL in the task of verifying the parties' implementation of their commitments and urged them to complete that implementation within the framework of the agreed calendar and the new timetable proposed by ONUSAL.

* * *

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Georgia, Edouard Brunner, began the first round of negotiations in Geneva today between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia. According to United Nations spokesman, the negotiations are aimed at making progress towards achieving an overall political settlement of the conflict, and are expected to last a few days.

Ambassador Brunner is being accompanied at the talks by Feodor Starcevic, United Nations Representative in Georgia, and Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard, Commanding Officer of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG). The Russian Federation, which is attending the meeting as a facilitator, is represented by Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE) has an observer present, Vincenzo Manno.

* * *

Libya has said that it is continuing to take positive steps to solve the crisis between it and the United States, the United Kingdom and France, and has reiterated its readiness to cooperate with regard to Security Council resolution 731 (1992). That resolution required the transfer to United States or United Kingdom jurisdiction of suspects in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 and compliance with French requests regarding the bombing of UTA flight 772. In a letter addressed to the Secretary-General dated 24 November, Libya reaffirmed its readiness to receive a United Nations mission as soon as possible in order to verify that there were no terrorist training camps or groups on its territory.

Libya also proposed that its investigating counsellor and the French examining magistrate meet urgently in order to exchange views and establish procedures for inquiries regarding UTA flight 772. It said a date should be fixed for the French magistrate to go to Libya to complete his inquiries by hearing the statements of individuals and examining essential materials. Libya said that should the inquiries demonstrate that the two suspects in the

case should appear before the court, it would not object to them doing so. The letter went on to say that Libya wanted to bring an end to a matter that had clouded relations with France in a manner that would ensure justice for all parties involved.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation (CSCE) meeting in Rome today, stressed the importance of regional organizations and arrangements with the capacity to deal with regional problems. In the text, delivered by Vladimir Petrovsky, Director-General of the United Nations Office in Geveva, he also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation and coordination between Governments and peoples.

Breaking down barriers and the growth of understanding among peoples would contribute most to curbing ethnic enmity and the risk of conflict, the Secretary-General continued. Cooperation should be nurtured not only in the political and security fields but also in economic and social areas, in education, medicine, industry, science and the arts. It was in Member States' commitment to the Charter of the United Nations that international peace and security could be constructed, and with those values that the United Nations and the CSCE would together seek to achieve peace and stability in Europe in the years ahead.

* *** *